

General Booth declares he has been offered one million acres of land for his over-sea colonisation scheme.

The *St. James's Gazette* asserts that General Booth lent W. J. Stent £5,000 from the Salvation Army funds to purchase an interest in the *Review of Reviews*.

January 10th.
2,000 laborers of Swinford, County Mayo, are demanding work on the relief railways. They threaten if this is not granted they will prevent the men now employed proceeding with work.

Serious disturbances arising out of the railway strikes in Scotland occurred at Motherwell and Blantyre; 2,000 dockers in England have decided to strike to show their sympathy with the railway men on strike in Scotland.

The clerks in the London Post Office Savings Bank are returning to work.

The Miners' Federation Conference in England strongly favors a statutory 8-hour day.

Two steamers came into collision in the Firth of Forth and 13 persons were drowned.

A French committee appointed to investigate Koch's consumption cure has reported that the wisest and ablest physicians would do better to await further developments.

Professor Anderson Stuart, of New South Wales, has been provided with three bottles of Koch's lymph for the inoculation of tuberculosis patients.

Professor Virchow is sceptical as to the value of Professor Koch's lymph. He states that 21 cases of tuberculosis treated by Koch's method have ended fatally.

MELBOURNE, January 10th.
The gold yield of Victoria last year was 584,770 ounces, being 30,885 ounces less than for the preceding year.

PARIS, January 10th.
The French Traffic Committee have finally decided to renounce all customs' treaties on February 1st.

PERTH, W. A., January 10th.
George Anderson, a theatrical agent, has been brought up at Perth charged with uttering a forged consent to marriage.

LONDON, January 10th.
During the present winter in England, 48 days of continuous frost have been experienced. The weather is the severest that has been known during the present century. A number of people have been frozen to death.

500 persons have been killed by the natives of Onca, Caroline Isles, during the recent revolt against the Spanish authorities.

20,000 deaths from small-pox have occurred at Guatemala, Central America.

The British squadron in the Behring Sea is to be reinforced. It is reported that a German fleet will proceed there. Lord Salisbury declares that the alleged intimation on the part of the British Government regarding forcible resistance being offered if a British vessel were seized outside the 3-mile limit, is without foundation.

Later.
The aspect of the dispute between Great Britain and the United States is improving.

The Diplomatic Body in Washington anticipates an early amicable settlement of the Behring Sea dispute.

Mullett, the invincible, has been released from prison.

Negotiations with the Irish leaders still continue, but nothing definite has as yet resulted.

January 11th.
It is stated Mr. Gladstone insists that Parnell shall withdraw from public life. Parnell has consented to withdraw from the leadership of the Irish party. In the meantime O'Brien is to make an effort to displace Justin McCarthy.

The *St. James's Gazette* declares that the trust deed executed by General Booth is worthless as a protection to subscribers to the Salvation Army funds.

Several new steamers are being built in England for the Australian trade.

The Cape of Good Hope loan of £1,000,000 has been issued.

It is reported that a Victorian loan of £2,450,000 will be issued this week.

Russia is reported to be supplying Serbia with a great quantity of arms, and also pontoons for a military bridge across the Danube.

The British Admiralty are increasing the personnel of the navy by 5,000 men.

The Indians who are submitting to the United States authorities refuse to surrender their arms, and it is feared that an attempt to disarm them would cause bloodshed.

The Queensland Smelting Company are considering a scheme for erecting smelting works at Port Augusta, S.A., at a cost of £30,000.

MELBOURNE, January 11th.
Charles Mackenzie, a bank teller, has been arrested on a charge of embezzlement.

AUCKLAND, January 12th.
Colonel Herrick, an old resident of the Hawke's Bay district, New Zealand, was killed by falling off the Waikato Falls, which he was visiting with a picnic party.

The publisher and editor of the *Hawke's Bay Herald*, New Zealand, has been committed for an alleged criminal libel.

LONDON, January 12th.
A letter has appeared from Sir W. V. Harcourt in which he denies the rumours current, that there is dissension among the Gladstonian Liberals, and affirms their complete adherence to the leaders of the party and to Mr. Gladstone's Irish policy.

The Duke of Cambridge, while on his way to Malta, paid a visit to Spisla and was received by the Italian Admiral commanding. The Duke then inspected the arsenal and dockyard.

The river Thames is completely blocked with ice, and traffic is entirely suspended.

January 13th.
Dillon is about to sail from America to Paris. He will probably not sail as Irish leader while O'Brien serves his term of imprisonment. It is believed that McCarthy is anxious to resign. Parnell states he was determined to fight for the leadership, but he is satisfied with the recent conference with O'Brien.

Gladstone announces that he will pursue the same Irish policy as heretofore.

Parnell delivered a long speech on the Home Rule question at Limerick on Sunday.

Balfour's fund for the relief of the destitute in Ireland has now reached £18,000.

BRISTOL, January 13th.
At Rockhampton a party of seven persons left Emu Park a week ago in a boat and have not yet returned. Signals of distress have been exhibited from one of the islands in the vicinity, but owing to the rough weather succour cannot be sent.

The Port Master has received news from the Harbor Master at Mackay that the schooner *Perseverance* foundered near Steep Island on Saturday.

The schooner *Sybil* which cleared from Morston Bay on Wednesday morning, bound for the South Sea, was struck by a heavy squall that night which disabled her. She returned to Morston Bay under way on Saturday evening.

SYDNEY, January 13th.

The steamer *Hawthorn* was burnt to the water's edge at Windsor early yesterday morning.

Alarming bush fires are raging in New Zealand. On arrival of the ship *Peter Stuart* at Sydney from New York, the chief officer, Barton, surrendered himself on a charge of homicide. During the voyage one of the crew made a murderous attack on Barton, who shot him.

MELBOURNE, January 13th.
J. Musgrave, the well-known actor, died in Melbourne Hospital on Thursday of a cancer.

Christopher Wood, who states he is a Presbyterian clergyman, has been arrested in Melbourne charged with stealing a book from the Public Library.

LONDON, January 13th.
A letter has appeared from Sir William Vernon Maecourt, in which he declares the rumours current that there is dissension among the Gladstonian Liberals, and affirms their complete adherence to the leaders of the party and to Mr. Gladstone's Irish policy.

Reports have been received of a revolution in Chili, where three men-of-war are reported to have revolted against the President's unconstitutional rule. No details have been received, as the Government controls the wires. The Chilean legations in Europe deny that there has been any street fighting. The army is not affected by the revolution.

NEW YORK, January 13th.
The American Treasury has decided that neither bar nor forged silver can be coined for the use or benefit of the depositor.

The United States Attorney-General maintains that the Supreme Court has no jurisdiction in the case of the seizure of the steamer *Sawyer*, since it originated in the Alaska Court. The hearing is fixed for the 26th instant.

LONDON, January 14th.
The Lord Provost of Edinburgh has held a conference with the railway strikers and has promised to mediate with the Directors of the North British Railway line.

WASHINGTON, January 14th.
It is believed that President Harrison will veto free coinage anyhow. Nevertheless the Silver Party are lobbying to obtain votes in the House of Representatives in favour of the Bill.

The Senate have adopted Senator Stewart's amendment, limiting free coinage to silver obtained from American mines by imposing a charge upon foreign silver.

Later.
The Senate has passed by a majority of twelve votes the Free Coinage Bill, pure and simple, as a substitute for the Financial Bill.

It is expected that Rear-Admiral Robinson will succeed Rear-Admiral Sir E. Fremantle in Command of the East India Squadron. Vice-Admiral Sir J. T. Troun has been appointed to succeed Admiral Sir D. Hoskins in command of the Mediterranean Squadron.

January 15th.
The Committee formed by the Lord Provost of Glasgow, yesterday conferred with the Board of Directors of the Caledonian Railway on behalf of the strikers, but the Board refused to discuss the matter until the men resumed work. The Lord Provost of Edinburgh conferred with the Directors of the North British line, who gave the same answer as the Caledonian Directors. The men in both cases refused to resume work.

Mr. Gladstone has forwarded fifty pounds towards Mr. Balfour's Irish distress fund.

The latest advices from Valparaiso state that the Chilean Government is massing troops. The Chilean Congress insists upon the President resigning. An outbreak is imminent.

The Governor of the Bank of England is of great concern at the liquidation of Messrs. Baring Brothers will be satisfactory, and the guarantors will not be called on.

BERLIN, January 15th.
Dr. Koch publishes an article in which he divulges the component parts of his lymph. It consists briefly of glycerine and an extract derived from cultivated colonies of bacilli.

WASHINGTON, January 15th.
After the Financial Bill had passed the Committee of the whole House, Senator Best astonished the Senate by proposing as a substitute a purely free coinage Bill, which provides that the unit of value of America be a dollar coined of four hundred and twelve and a half grains of standard silver. The Senate adopted the Bill as amended by Senator Best by thirty-nine against twenty-seven votes. The Bill has been sent to the House of Representatives.

This Bill repeals the purchases of four and a half millions of ounces of silver monthly, provided for in the Act passed last July.

LONDON, January 16th.
Frost has again set in throughout Great Britain, accompanied by snow storms.

The *Standard* states that the Americans during the last few days have bought one million sterling of rupee paper in London.

The Earl of Devon is dead.

A parcel of Cayton tea from Gallebode estate has been sold in Mincing Lane at eighty-seven shillings per pound (7), and sold at one hundred and ten shillings.

Advices from Buenos Ayres state that a large force of rebels is collected at Entre Rios, whither the national troops have been sent to disperse them.

Mr. O'Brien's newspaper, the *Irish Independent*, announces that Mr. Parnell has consented to retire from the leadership of the Irish party.

The steamer *Carla*, bound for Bombay, has grounded on the Tees break-water and is expected to become a total wreck. The crew has been saved.

PROME, January 19th.
The great defalcation case of Summers, Municipal Secretary, *versus* Anderson, Municipal Commissioner, Promé, was dismissed to-day.

LONDON, January 17th.
Mr. Bradlaugh has been seriously ill with heart and lungs complaint, but was a little better last night.

The expedition under Col. Younghurst and has arrived at Kasgar.

The Portuguese draft of the new African Convention will shortly be submitted to England.

January 18th.
A letter has appeared from the Marquis of Hartington, in which he says that nothing has occurred to justify the Liberal Unionists in relating their efforts to the interest of the cause, and urges them to continue the work. In the success and justice of which his lordship expresses increased confidence.

Mr. Parnell, on his way to Tralee, has been received with immense enthusiasm.

Advices from Valparaiso state that Chilean insurgents have landed at Coquimbo, whither troops have been despatched to endeavour to surround them. The Chilean revolt has arisen owing to the contest between the President and the Congress. The rebels at Entre Rios have been dispersed, and the alarm felt in the province is subsiding.

Mr. George Bancroft, the American historian, is dead.

Latest advices from Valparaiso state that the Chilean insurgents have three ironclads and a majority of the fleet in their possession, whilst the Government have only one ironclad and eight torpedo boats. Business is entirely suspended. A manifesto has been issued by the President, on assuming the dictatorship, in which he accuses the Congress of violating the Constitution.

January 19th.
Sir James Hannan has been appointed one of the Lords of Appeal, in the place of the late Sir Barnes Peacock.

A demonstration of railway strikers, in which five thousand men took part, was held at Edinburgh yesterday. The proceedings were of an orderly character.

Mr. Dillon has arrived at Havre from New York and was received on landing by Messrs. O'Brien and Gill.

NOTES FROM CHINESE PAPERS.
Two fires recently occurred in Soochow, luckily causing only slight damage.

Owing to the shallow state of the river it took the steamer *Kuling* seven days in making her last trip from Hankow to Ichang.

H.E. K'iu, the Tribute Rice Tao-tai, has returned from Nanking and is busy in getting rice ready for transportation to the North next spring.

The Vice-regal palace at Nanking is undergoing repairs. H.E. Liu K'un-yi has already reached Hankow and is expected at Nanking shortly.

The opium merchants of Shanghai have decided to charge four taels on each chest of opium higher than the usual price. This increase is for the the Famine fund.

Over forty of the Mongolian princes have arrived at Peking to pay their annual respects to the Emperor. They are staying at the Mongolian hotel awaiting audience.

Since the capture of Chu, the leader of a gang of sneak thieves on the river steamers, the Wuhu Tao-tai has deputed an official with twelve men to pilot steamers on their arrival at Wuhu.

Trade in Ningpo is in a very depressed state. Even the fur stores, which ought to do a brisk business during winter, are deserted. The end of the year is fast approaching and many failures are expected.

The head of the Shanghai city police made a capture of two boats in Soochow the other day, and found them to contain stolen property of all kinds. The thieves were all arrested, not one of them making his escape, as the capture was made in a very quiet and neat manner.

A fire lately occurred in a wine shop in Hangchow. The inmates, not having water at hand, broke open some casks of wine and threw the contents on the fire, and it was thus extinguished. The Chinese claim that the god of fire was hard up for a drink, and being satiated went off happy. One may, at the same time, form some idea as to the quality of the wine.

Snow fell at Peking in the last part of the 9th moon, and since then the weather has been excessively warm for winter. People suffered much from throat disease, the mortality being great. Toward the end of the past moon a windstorm arose which continued towards night, when a heavy snowstorm occurred. An intense cold followed and the streets were almost deserted.

The river at Newchwang has been completely frozen. Large and small carts are travelling over it. Later, however, the weather has been warmer and a slight thaw was taking place. Very little snow has fallen, averaging only two to three inches each time. The money market is quiet and no failures have been reported. On the whole Newchwang will have a pleasant New Year.

The charitable institutions, both official and private, in Tientsin are distributing wadded clothing to the suffering poor. There are wicked people who purposely appear naked in the streets to attract the sympathy of good-intentioned donors. When clothing is given them they take it to the country places and sell it. Sometimes one person carries with him several pieces of clothing which have been obtained in this fraudulent manner.

The Hoken district with its suburbs in the Chihli province suffered most severely from inundations this year. The dykes were burst open in twenty-five different places and several villages were submerged. As a rule, when such calamities occur the higher authorities are notified and they beg the Throne to remit the tribute taxes of the unfortunate districts. In the present instance, however, the clerks of the Hoken magistrate still keep on collecting the taxes, and the people, furious with rage, have sent a committee to Tientsin to lay the facts before the Tao-tai who has ordered a thorough investigation into the case.

Along the banks of the Peiho river the soil is barren and the fields are badly irrigated. The Viceroy had ordered the garrison troops at Su-chow to cultivate the fields and to open canals for irrigating purposes. Sluice-gates are constructed for letting water into or out of the fields. During late years several thousands of piculs of rice have been gathered; but in filling the canals the force of the water in the river becomes divided, and between Tientsin and Peking the river is silted up. Before this present winter set in the Viceroy instructed the commanders of the various camps to close all the sluice-gates, so that the river may gain its normal condition and carry the deposits into the sea.

As the New Year is approaching rapidly the money market is growing tighter day by day. A certain Ningpo man entered into a large speculation in dollars in another port and sustained a very heavy loss. The partners in Shanghai refused to acknowledge the validity of the transaction and repudiated the loss. In consequence two old and well-known banks failed, with a liability of over five hundred thousand taels. The partners, being men of good standing and wishing to save their reputation, attempted to make an arrangement with their creditors, but the managers and employees all left for parts unknown. Other banks became involved in the disaster. Money rose to sixty tael cents per thousand taels, and yet no ready money could be had. If the Government deposit should be recalled there is no telling to what an extent the Chinese financial market will have to suffer before the year closes.

The various merchants of the large firms and houses have placed a petition in the hands of the

Ningpo Customs Tao-tai, stating that the Yik-ke and Han-tse banks export dollars from Ningpo and have them melted in Shanghai, so that dollars become daily scarcer and higher in value. The Tao-tai accordingly issued a proclamation prohibiting such practices, and ordered the runner to make an investigation and report. The prefect and the district magistrate are to record the case and carry out the instructions (contained in the proclamation). Now the Sh'eng-kong bank with twenty-three others have invited the Guild directors to a convention and decided the value of a dollar should not rise more than forty cents per thousand in one day. This decision was reported and the Tao-tai issued a second proclamation, limiting the increase to thirty cents a thousand in one day.

A little below Kinkiang there are layers of rocks in the middle of the river which are very dangerous to passing junks and vessels. Last year, T'eh, Governor of Kiang-si, contributed a sum of money which was augmented by donations of other officials, and with it bought a large iron post from Shanghai. It stands at the head of the rocks as a beacon of warning to all ships. This winter, the river being somewhat lower than usual, the rocks became uncovered and stood forth in sight. The district magistrates, Chang and J'eh, after receiving sanction from the Governor and with the assistance of some charitable institutions, drilled holes in some of the most dangerous portions of the rocks and blasted them with gunpowder. A large glass lamp lighted with kerosene has been set up, orders being given to have it lit every night. The expenses are defrayed by the magistrate Chang from his own purse.

CHINKIANG.
(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)
January 26th.

Strong northerly gales have prevailed during the past week and the weather has been bitterly cold, the thermometer falling as low as 22 degrees, and much suffering appears among the poorer classes. The more humane and benevolent societies are acting in a most praiseworthy manner, having sent a number of coffins up to the scene of the late Shanghai disaster. They have had all the dead photographed, and each photo placed separately in large frames, which are hung at the Free Ferry and the Humane Society's Yamen, so that relatives and friends of those deceased may at once identify them. Some of the photos are ghastly to look upon, showing the dreadful sufferings of the victims in their death struggles.

The new block of houses on the Bund, which have been erected and built to the order of Mr. William Beck, and designed by Messrs. Morrison & Gratton of Shanghai, are now completed, and reflect great credit on the architects. The houses are just what has long been wanted, and ought to prove a remunerative investment.—*Shanghai Mercury*.

CHUNGKING.
January 9th, 1891.

The port is not opened yet, and as far as appearances go there is nothing whatever being done in that direction. The Commissioner of Customs and his staff have been here now two months, and the only thing that we know of having been done is that he has found quarters for himself and officers in the most desirable part of the city, and they have established themselves in them. Being in the extreme western part of the city, and some distance from the river, the locality would not be suitable for the Custom House. The place proposed by the native officials about a month ago is on the south or right bank of the river, opposite the City of Kiang-ping or Lee Min-foo, as it is officially known. Leaving out the question of convenience to trade, it will be by far the most desirable place for a residence for foreigners available. The only objection to it would be having to cross both rivers going to Chungking, which is a difficult as well as a dangerous undertaking when either stream is in flood. On the other hand, in case of a riot the mob would have to cross the river, which would make a very material difference. But as above stated, nothing definite is known either as to where the Custom House is to be, or when it is to be opened. It is conjectured that there is a fresh hitch in Peking.

The new Tao-tai has taken over the seals of office. He is said to have said that the Peking Government had not sent him the seal belonging to his newly created office of Superintendent of Customs. He has been energetic in removing his subordinates and appears to have had a general clearing out, some forty odd subordinates having been removed. He is a son-in-law of Li Hung-chang, and is said to be a very young man for so high a position. With his powerful connections he has doubtless a long official career before him, especially if he proves to be a man of any ability. As far as we can learn, nothing whatever has been done in the way of settling the late losses in Ta-Chu-hsien; many of the Christians are still living in Chungking, fearing to return to their homes. It is rumoured that Mr. A. Little is on his way here to start in business. There are also rumours of other homes being opened here. It is reported that several native firms are making, or are trying to make arrangements, to open foreign banks, if they can procure the name of some foreigner, who they seem to think is all that is necessary.—*Mercury*.

"JACK-THE-RIPPER" IN INDIA.
A correspondent writes to the *Pioneer* thus:—

"On Saturday night, 3rd instant, information was conveyed to the police that a body was floating in the well just outside the entrance to Alambagh on the Campore Road. Inspector Fitzpatrick at once proceeded to the spot and found a man of any ability. As far as we can learn, nothing whatever has been done in the way of settling the late losses in Ta-Chu-hsien; many of the Christians are still living in Chungking, fearing to return to their homes. It is rumoured that Mr. A. Little is on his way here to start in business. There are also rumours of other homes being opened here. It is reported that several native firms are making, or are trying to make arrangements, to open foreign banks, if they can procure the name of some foreigner, who they seem to think is all that is necessary.—*Mercury*.

Intimations.

LAST FEW DAYS!

GREAT CLEARANCE

LAST FEW DAYS!

HONGKONG TRADING CO., LTD.

Hongkong, 31st January, 1891.

A KINDLY OFFER.

The *Morning Post*, the favourite organ of British Toryism and military incapacity, has lately given birth to a new idea in which the loyal Australian native will, no doubt, be interested. For many years past the difficulty of finding recruits for the British army has been steadily on the increase. Glory, accompanied by beggary and a wooden leg, and the prospect of a weary old age in the workhouse, fully succeeded in attracting the incipient warrior, and consequently the old "Shook of Gump Ridge" presides over a dismal array of skeleton battalions and paper regiments of dismounted foot cavalry and unhorsed hussars, and every year the forces grow smaller and beautifully less. Under these circumstances, the *Post* considers that the rampant loyalty of the "Representative Australian" might be conveniently turned to account. The fatted absentee, who lives on his rents and spends his "h"less old age in making a painful exhibition of himself for the benefit of "society," is conspicuous for his devotion to the Crown, and as his country has made a fearful ass of itself before every titled individual who has visited its shores, it is naturally assumed that this escaped K.C.M.G. fairly represents the popular sentiment of the nation. Hence the following suggestion:—

Let some distinguished British regiment be quartered in Melbourne or Sydney, and recruited from the ranks of the state, and the Australian native will, no doubt, be interested. For many years past the difficulty of finding recruits for the British army has been steadily on the increase. Glory, accompanied by beggary and a wooden leg, and the prospect of a weary old age in the workhouse, fully succeeded in attracting the incipient warrior, and consequently the old "Shook of Gump Ridge" presides over a dismal array of skeleton battalions and paper regiments of dismounted foot cavalry and unhorsed hussars, and every year the forces grow smaller and beautifully less. Under these circumstances, the *Post* considers that the rampant loyalty of the "Representative Australian" might be conveniently turned to account. The fatted absentee, who lives on his rents and spends his "h"less old age in making a painful exhibition of himself for the benefit of "society," is conspicuous for his devotion to the Crown, and as his country has made a fearful ass of itself before every titled individual who has visited its shores, it is naturally assumed that this escaped K.C.M.G. fairly represents the popular sentiment of the nation. Hence the following suggestion:—

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